

Union Labor Exonerated For the Youngstown Riots

Conspiracy to Control Wages Alleged Against Gary and Big Steel Concerns.—Fixing Price of Output Is Charged By Jury Which Investigates Riots at East Youngstown.

Report Says Mayor and Police Are Unfit.—Guards Are Censured For Firing Into Crowd.—Agents of Foreign Governments Get Clean Bill.—Action Travesty, Declares Company Head.

Youngstown, O.—The United States Steel Corporation and the Chairman of its Board of Directors, Elbert H. Gary; the Carnegie Steel Company, the Republic Iron and Steel Company, the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, the Brier Hill Steel Company and the Youngstown Iron and Steel Company were indicted by the Mahoning County Grand Jury several days ago on charges of conspiring to fix wages of common labor in their local plants and to fix the price of steel.

The indictments grew out of the East Youngstown riots and strike of two months ago. The seven parties named were indicted in one true bill, which contained 62 counts, one for each day between January 6 and March 7, 1916.

The penalty on conviction is a fine of \$50 to \$5,000, or imprisonment of six months to a year, or both, for each of the 62 counts.

Mayor Is Flayed.

The grand jury also returned indictments against Mayor W. H. Cunningham and Councilmen Peter Julius, Hugh Boyle, Peter Kratzberg, W. H. Reed, A. R. Birch and A. F. Birk, East Youngstown. The councilmen are charged with having been financially interested in property purchased for village purposes. Mayor Cunningham is charged with having aided and abetted in the purchase of the property in question.

The grand jury report, submitted with the indictments, sets forth that the grand jurors were unable to fix any particular cause for the recent East Youngstown reign of anarchy.

The report flays Mayor Cunningham, of East Youngstown, and the police force for "failing to make any honest effort to disperse the crowds or to control the situation," and calls attention to the fact that labor troubles in Youngstown at the same time were handled successfully by no greater force than could have been gathered by the East Youngstown officials.

"Unfit," Says Report.

The report says the mayor and police officials of East Youngstown were guilty of such inefficiency and disregard for the law as to be unfit and unworthy to fill the positions they hold.

The report alleges that one of the members of the Youngstown Sheet and

Tube police force, who was an officer in the local National Guard, without authority of the commanding officers, took ten members of the guard to the armory in this city and had them remove quantities of Government ammunition for the defense of the sheet and tube plant.

While there was no intent to rob the Government or to leave the city without the National Guard defense, this section, the grand jury said, was censurable.

County Prosecutor A. M. Henderson, who conducted the inquiry, announced today that the trials of the steel corporations will start in thirty days and will be pushed without delay. It is likely the case against the United States Steel Corporation will be the first to be tried.

Witnesses Are Spared.

"Indictments were not returned against any of the officials of the local steel companies," said Mr. Henderson, "because most of the officers were summoned to testify before the grand jury."

When the various companies are brought to trial the heads will act as defendants. James A. Campbell, president of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, denied the charges. "The United States Steel Corporation fixed its own wage scale and announced it before the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company knew anything about it," he stated. "We never had any understanding on these questions with other local manufacturers."

W. A. Thomas, president of the Brier Hill Steel Company, and John O. Pew, president of the Youngstown Iron and Steel Company, refused to comment on the indictments.

Conspiracy Is Alleged.

The specific offense charged against the six steel concerns is that they conspired to keep the wages of common labor at the same figure at the time of the strike at the Republic Iron and Steel Company and at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company in January.

Announcement was made by all these companies within two days' time of a ten per cent increase in wages. This action is held to be due to an agreement.

Guards on the sheet and tube company bridge who fired into the crowd assembled about the time-office, before the rioting began, are censured.

The report says the guards were not

of the standard to be trusted with such a responsible duty. The report goes on to say the grand jury was unable to find the influence of any foreign Government being responsible for the riot.

Why Gary Is Indicted.

"Judge Gary has been indicted individually," said County Prosecutor A. M. Henderson, "because the evidence laid before the grand jury tends to show he is the dictator of the iron and steel industry in the United States."

In naming Judge Gary as the "dictator of steel," Henderson declared he was the sole individual indicted because it was necessary for the grand jury to rely on information furnished by officials of other companies. He refused, however, to make public the names of steel men who had testified during the investigation.

"They were witnesses in the grand jury's inquiry," Henderson said, "and they will be compelled to tell their share and that of Gary and the corporations involved in the conspiracy the indictment charges existed."

To Call Trial Soon.

Prosecutor Henderson tonight declared the trial of Gary and the six indicted corporations would be held within a month. He said an effort would be made to prove that the alleged combination to fix the price of labor brought about the unrest among laborers, which resulted in the East Youngstown strike riots.

"If Judge Gary does not come to Youngstown voluntarily for trial we will bring him here," the Prosecutor said.

Should the defendants be convicted the Court could not order a dissolution of the alleged unlawful combination, and, according to Prosecutor Henderson, he is planning to commence a civil suit seeking to dissolve it.

Prosecutor Henderson today engaged Attorney H. H. Wickham, of Youngstown, as special counsel to aid him in the prosecution of the cases. He declared that the Federal Government had had no part in the investigation, and he does not know whether the Department of Justice would offer its co-operation in trying the cases.

James A. Campbell, president of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, tonight denied that his company had any part in a wage-fixing agreement.

SECTIONS OF WORKMEN'S BILL

PUT BACK BY HOUSE WHEN MEASURE IS PASSED.

Provisions Reinstated in Compensation Act After Being Stricken Out By Kentucky Senate.

Frankfort, Ky.—Without a dissenting vote the House of Representatives today passed the workmen's compensation act.

The House reinstated Sections 73 and 74 of the original bill, which were stricken out by the Senate. These sections go back into the bill as Subsections 76a and 76b.

Subsection 76a provides if any employer fails to elect to come under the provisions of the act he shall not be permitted in any damage case to plead the common-law defenses, known as the fellow-servant rule, contributory negligence and assumption of risk.

Subsection 76b provides that an employer who does come under the bill shall have the right to plead these defenses.

Representatives William Duffy and William Hobbs made the fight for the bill, and made speeches in explanation of the sections relating to common-law defenses. Duffy declared the bill would be valueless unless these sections were reinstated.

Hobbs insisted the sections are fair to both employer and employee, and that the bill would be "a farce and a fraud" without them.

TROLLEY MEN WANT MORE.

Scranton, Pa.—The Street Car Men's Union has prepared a new wage scale, to take effect the first of April. Higher rates are asked, as are better working conditions, shorter hours and the employment of none but members of the union.

HATTERS' RELIEF FUND.

Washington.—Up to and including Wednesday, March 1, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has received \$81,378.12 for the benefit of Danbury hatters. This money represents the pay of one hour's labor on January 27 by the unionists contributing.

LOW WAGES OVERLOOKED.

New York.—The Russell Sage Foundation has published the results of a survey of Springfield, Ill., charities. It is shown that as many as 1,764 families received some kind of charitable aid in 1913, the year studied.

In a press review, the Foundation says:

"The chief factors in making these families dependent or abnormal were found to be tuberculosis, sickness other than tuberculosis, widowhood, irregular school attendance, desertion and intemperance. Unemployment, non-support, mental deficiency, crippled condition and blindness were also factors of importance in producing abnormal conditions."

No reference to the evils of low wages is made in the press review, which is furnished editors with this significant statement by E. G. Routhahn of the Foundation:

"The following is submitted in the hope that, if acceptable, it may prove a slight contribution towards securing more general appreciation of the spirit and purpose of modern organized charity."

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BILLY WULFTANGE
Halls For All Occasions
Hauch's Beer On Draught

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EDUCATION MOST IMPORTANT.

San Francisco.—"Education is the most important industry in the United States. The most American thing is our school. The most democratic thing in America is our system of education, which gives equal opportunity to every child, regardless of race, creed or economic conditions of the parents, to acquire an education that fits the child to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," declared Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education.

"The public schools must be the foundation of our institutions of liberty," continued Dr. Claxton. "We are spending now three times as much money on our common schools as we did years ago; five times the amount on colleges and six times the amount on normal schools."

"During the last 15 years the number of children in the high schools has increased 200 per cent."

"It is most difficult to judge in matters of education whether you are getting results. You cannot judge what your children carry away with them at the end of a term or at the end of the school year."

"Education is the fitting for life. The demands of life are constantly changing. What is good today will be out of date tomorrow. Education can never be perfect in any continuing way."

TEXTILE WORKERS GAIN.

Knoxville, Tenn.—The Brookside mills and the United Textile Workers' Union have settled their differences through conference. Wages of 1,500 workers will be increased. These mills are among the largest in the South.

WILL START A LABOR FORWARD

Richmond, Ind.—The Central Labor Council is arranging for a mass meeting, March 12, to inaugurate a labor forward campaign. International and national unions will be asked to assign representatives to assist.

Rochester, N. Y.—Trade unionists have formed an organization to conduct a vigorous labor forward campaign. Charles C. Gorham, chairman of this committee, says:

"We intend to inaugurate a definite organization campaign that every worker may understand the principles of trade unionism. This new movement has not for its purpose the starting of strikes or the stirring up of trouble; nothing is further from our minds. We wish to eliminate trouble, as far as possible, and prevent possible breaks between employer and employee."

Dayton, Ohio.—The labor forward movement in this city was far more successful than anticipated. As Dayton is the home of a former president of the National Association of Manufacturers, this influence has made possible the blacklisting of many active trade unionists. As a result of union agitation, over a score of unions have reported substantial gains and five new locals have been organized. Representatives of twenty-three national and international unions were here and new vigor has been instilled in the organized movement.

BARBERS ORGANIZE.

Christopher, Ill.—Barbers at this place have organized and received a charter from the international affiliated to the A. F. of L. Retail clerks are discussing organization, as are several other crafts in this vicinity.

MINERS WANT LEGISLATION.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Miners in the anthracite district have started a non-partisan movement for the election of candidates who are favorable to the following legislation:

An amendment to the workmen's compensation law, increasing the amount to be paid for total disability and extending the time for which payments shall be made; also compensation for occupational diseases.

Old age pension law.

The extension of the bureau of the unemployed so as to make it operative in all parts of the State.

An amendment to the law providing for mothers' pensions, and increasing the amount to be paid.

More clearly defining the rights, powers and duties of the State constabulary (cossacks) to the end that there may be no conflict of the authority between municipal authorities and the State organization.

Improvement of the mining laws.

Compensate the parents of children who are forced under the law to relinquish jobs in order to attend school.

Repeal of the law by which public service corporations compel payment for water, light, gas and electricity not used.

BAD EGGS ARE BARRED.

Washington.—While the defenders of child labor are insisting that the Keating-Owen child labor bill is unconstitutional because it is an interference with interstate commerce, the department of agriculture has ruled that hereafter eggs not 95 per cent good will be barred from interstate commerce.

Under the Keating-Owen bill, products of child labor under certain ages would be treated as bad eggs will be.